

Thirty-eighth Annual Report

MARYLAND STATE BOARD
of
MOTION PICTURE CENSORS

1953 - - 1954

Offices

212 N. Eutaw Street
Baltimore 1, Maryland

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OF

MOTION PICTURE CENSORS

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SYDNEY R. TRAUB

Chairman

MAUDE B. DORRANCE

Vice-Chairman and Treasurer

WALTER S. RINGLER

Secretary

ELMER P. BUTZ

Administrative Assistant

Offices

212 N. Eutaw Street

Baltimore 1, Maryland

TO HIS EXCELLENCY
HONORABLE THEODORE R. MCKELDIN
GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND

In compliance with law and custom, the Maryland State Board of Motion Picture Censors herewith submits the following report of its operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1954, the same being the Thirty-Eighth Annual Report since the advent of official motion picture control and regulation in this State.

GENERAL STATEMENT

The duties of the Board have required the daily attendance of its members, not only to review films in the expeditious manner required by legal regulations, but through its chairman, to direct the work of its office staff. At least once each week, the Board has held a meeting for the consideration of all matters incident to its operations. The proceedings at these meetings have been made a part of the Board's permanent records.

RESULTS OF FILM EXAMINATIONS

A total number of 2206 original films were submitted to the Board for approval and licensing, of which 749 were dramas, and 461 being comedies. Forty of these were caused to be deleted, with no picture having been banned outright.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The year's total receipts were \$76,865, as compared with \$75,530 the previous year. This revenue was derived from fees required by the statute for the Board's examination of films. After defraying all expenses, the sum of \$10,758.50 was turned over to the State Treasury. The Board has not only been self-sustaining during its existence, but has realized a *net profit* to date in the amount of \$562,061.65.

INSPECTIONS

The Board employs three Inspectors, in addition to a Supervisor thereof, in contrast to a staff of five Inspectors formerly employed. Their duties involve the visiting of all of the State's theatres to ascertain whether films have been duly processed; to report all infractions of the statute and to check films for compliance with orders passed thereon. A total of 4623 inspections were made during the year.

PROSECUTIONS

No instance of wilful violation of the statute regulating motion pictures was brought to the attention of the Board during the year in question.

HOUSE RESOLUTION RE: BOARD & STRENGTHENING OF LAW

It is gratifying to note that on March 1, 1954, the Maryland House of Delegates, by a vote of 91 to 9, passed a resolution known as House Resolution No. 16, which concludes as follows:

"Resolved, That the House of Delegates of the State of Maryland be recorded as endorsing the principle of the necessity of a State Board of Motion Picture Censors and the strengthening of the statute under which it shall continue to function in view of the plague of immorality and indecency spreading through the country through the medium of films

which the Motion Picture Association of America (Code) is powerless to control; and be it further

"Resolved, That the House of Delegates of the State of Maryland express its vote of confidence in the present Maryland State Board of Motion Picture Censors and its appreciation for the efforts of its members in the interests of the moral health of the youth of the community."

CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE REQUESTS STRONGER LAW

Also of pleasure to the Board is Resolution No. 1840 of the City Council of Baltimore, requesting "stronger and more effective laws for the censorship of moving pictures," the measure having been adopted by a vote of 17 to 2 on April 26, 1934.

Among the 'whereas' clauses of the Resolution the following appear: "WHEREAS, many thousands of people in Baltimore City believe that the laws controlling the review and censorship of moving pictures should be made stronger and more effective and that the State Board of Moving Picture Censors should be given greater and more definitive powers; and "WHEREAS, although these laws and the powers of the Board have recently been under attack from some quarters by persons who would like to weaken both the laws and powers of the Board, the need of the people is for strengthening rather than weakening these laws and powers."

ASSURANCE OF BOARD

Assurance is hereby given that if the Board can possibly avert it, the motion-picture situation in this State will not reach the alarming stage that it apparently did in 1931, when the General Assembly of Maryland unanimously passed Senate Joint Resolution No. 26, "condemning the exhibition of all indecent, vicious and salacious moving pictures which tend to undermine and destroy the moral character of the people of this State," and, as a consequence, giving notice to the Board "that if it *cannot* or *will not* prohibit the exhibition of pictures having a plot or character which is degrading, indecent or salacious, and which tend to glorify vice and marital infidelity, the Assembly *will pass legislation* at its next session prohibiting the exhibition of all such pictures in this State."

RECOMMENDATIONS

Aside from the apparent legal necessity for the revision of Section 6 of our motion-picture statute, it is recommended that both the Board and the applicant for the licensing of a picture be given the right to appeal to the Court of Appeals of Maryland from any and all decisions of the Baltimore City Court. Due to the state-wide scope of the statute, it is believed that rulings on the merits or demerits of a Board order on a given picture should not be left to the final judgment of a single Baltimore City Judge.

CONCLUSION

The Board is indebted to your Excellency for unstinted cooperation throughout the year.

Respectfully yours,

SYDNEY R. TRAUB, *Chairman*

MAUDE B. DORRANCE, *Vice-Chairman*

WALTER S. RINGLER, *Secretary*

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1954

RECEIPTS

FEES:

Original Reels - 35 MM (6,644,945 ft.)	\$15,290.00	
Original Reels - 16 MM (14,189 ft.)	68.00	
Original Reels - 16 MM (607 ft.)	4.00	\$15,362.00
(Reversible)		
Duplicate Reels - 35 MM (51,532,295 ft.) ..	59,382.00	
Duplicate Reels - 16 MM		
Duplicate Reels - 16 MM		\$59,382.00
(Reversible)		
Sale of Substitute Seals (2,121)	2,121.00	\$76,865.00
Deposited to Credit of State Treasurer		\$76,865.00

EXPENSES

SALARIES:

Board Members	\$ 8,997.47	
Other Employees	39,556.17	\$48,553.64

OTHER EXPENSES:

Communication	\$ 802.02	
Contractual Services, Office	1,783.27	
Light, Heat, Power and Water	331.60	
Printing	45.00	
Office Supplies	995.49	
Insurance	32.50	
Office Rent	6,083.33	
Film Approval Seals	3,430.60	
RCA Inspection Service	329.16	
Motion Picture Machine Supplies	127.32	
Traveling	1,025.90	
Motor Vehicle Operation and Maintenance	665.91	
Motion Picture Equipment	591.90	
Moving Expenses (Moving to new Quarters)	1,308.86	17,552.86
		\$66,106.50

BUDGET ACCOUNT (Per Comptroller)

Appropriations, 1954	\$66,612.00	\$66,612.00
Less Reversion to Reserve Fund		505.50
General Fund Disbursement		\$66,106.50

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS

TABLE SHOWING TOTAL ANNUAL RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS TOGETHER WITH THE AMOUNTS REVERTING TO THE STATE TREASURY

October 1, 1920 — June 30, 1954

	Receipts	Disbursements	Amount Reverting To State Treasury
10-1-20 to 9-30-21	\$ 26,488.33	\$ 19,025.26	\$ 7,463.07
10-1-21 to 9-30-22	26,866.90	19,842.12	7,024.78
10-1-22 to 9-30-23	27,059.51	19,892.93	7,166.58
10-1-23 to 9-30-24	26,338.50	20,730.44	5,608.06
10-1-24 to 9-30-25	29,249.50	22,207.24	7,042.26
10-1-25 to 9-30-26	30,207.92	22,662.82	7,545.10
10-1-26 to 9-30-27	32,498.55	24,883.80	7,614.75
10-1-27 to 9-30-28	38,165.57	27,734.69	10,430.88
10-1-28 to 9-30-29	44,486.27	32,937.76	11,548.51
10-1-29 to 9-30-30	38,954.98	31,718.26	7,236.72
10-1-30 to 9-30-31	35,245.85	31,816.79	3,429.06
10-1-31 to 9-30-32	35,637.44	32,158.81	3,478.63
10-1-32 to 9-30-33	35,152.34	34,207.93	944.41
10-1-33 to 9-30-34	36,563.00	27,174.49	9,388.51
10-1-34 to 9-30-35	39,463.00	27,577.76	11,885.24
10-1-35 to 9-30-36	44,073.00	28,927.98	15,145.02
10-1-36 to 9-30-37	49,293.00	28,855.10	20,437.90
10-1-37 to 9-30-38	48,659.00	30,197.34	18,461.66
10-1-38 to 9-30-39	50,180.00	30,302.92	19,877.08
10-1-39 to 9-30-40	53,180.00	29,598.72	23,581.28
10-1-40 to 9-30-41	55,877.00	30,347.18	25,529.82
10-1-41 to 9-30-42	55,561.00	31,135.92	24,425.08
10-1-42 to 6-30-43	39,828.00	22,578.29	17,249.71
7-1-43 to 6-30-44	55,585.00	35,112.59	20,472.41
7-1-44 to 6-30-45	55,054.00	35,090.08	19,963.92
7-1-45 to 6-30-46	59,396.00	35,802.90	23,593.10
7-1-46 to 6-30-47	65,961.00	42,150.48	23,810.52
7-1-47 to 6-30-48	72,832.00	44,814.74	28,017.26
7-1-48 to 6-30-49	78,606.00	47,468.24	31,137.76
7-1-49 to 6-30-50	82,328.00	48,565.63	33,762.37
7-1-50 to 6-30-51	79,885.00	47,689.30	32,195.70
7-1-51 to 6-30-52	82,343.00	55,671.29	26,671.71
7-1-52 to 6-30-53	75,530.00	55,853.09	19,676.91
7-1-53 to 6-30-54	76,865.00	66,106.50	10,758.50
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	\$ 1,683,413.66	\$ 1,140,839.39	\$ 542,574.27

* The above amount reverting to State Treasury does not include \$19,487.38 for period 6-1-16 to 9-30-20.

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS

CLASSIFICATION OF FILMS July 1, 1953 — June 30, 1954

1953	Dramas	Comedies	News	Cartoons	Adver- tising	Misc.
July	655	147	874	87	5	0
August	588	185	705	136	10	0
September	566	263	787	115	6	1
October	541	199	803	156	23	4
November ³	493	161	711	153	15	1
December	630	242	792	185	13	4
1954						
January	400	144	811	105	7	1
February	425	154	784	126	10	4
March	517	213	792	89	9	0
April	510	186	703	123	12	2
May	491	144	871	173	10	0
June	419	173	697	156	25	1
TOTALS	6,235	2,211	9,330	1,604	145	18

SUMMARY OF REPORT

Films, Original	2,206				
Films, Duplicate	17,337				
Reels, Original		8,013			
Reels, Duplicate		63,340			
Number of Feet, Original			6,659,295		
Number of Feet, Duplicate			51,532,295		
Films Approved					19,343
Films Rejected					0
Films Eliminated					200
TOTALS	19,543	71,353	58,191,590		19,543

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS
REPORT OF FILMS EXAMINED
July 1, 1953 — June 30, 1954

1953	Films Original	Films Duplicate	Reels Original	Reels Duplicate	No. of Ft. Original	No. of Ft. Duplicate	Films Approved	Films Rejected	Films Elim- inated
July	181	1,587	564	4,483	500,993	4,784,193	1,738	....	30
August	183	1,441	775	5,767	620,410	4,653,821	1,614	....	10
September	193	1,545	708	6,275	542,802	4,900,044	1,720	....	18
October	208	1,518	700	5,523	573,650	4,412,414	1,710	....	16
November	170	1,364	737	5,496	597,216	4,388,261	1,527	....	7
December	220	1,646	696	5,231	616,162	4,400,731	1,848	....	18
1954									
January	167	1,301	602	5,020	509,447	4,011,326	1,450	....	18
February	169	1,334	596	4,354	500,628	3,521,703	1,490	....	13
March	187	1,433	773	5,407	651,186	4,356,355	1,609	....	11
April	194	1,342	656	5,072	618,969	4,030,990	1,524	....	12
May	173	1,516	576	5,108	448,704	4,166,631	1,674	....	15
June	161	1,310	630	5,604	479,574	3,905,826	1,439	....	32
TOTALS	2,200	17,337	8,013	63,340	6,659,741	51,532,295	19,343	0	200